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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

FOR THE CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff,

v.

CALVIN SIMS,

Defendant.

No. CR 22-00232-MWF-1

PLEA AGREEMENT FOR DEFENDANT
CALVIN SIMS

1. This constitutes the plea agreement between Calvin Sims ("defendant") and the United States Attorney's Office for the Central District of California (the "USAO") in the above-captioned case. This agreement is limited to the USAO and cannot bind any other federal, state, local, or foreign prosecuting, enforcement, administrative, or regulatory authorities.

DEFENDANT'S OBLIGATIONS

2. Defendant agrees to:

a. At the earliest opportunity requested by the USAO and provided by the Court, appear and plead guilty to the single-count indictment in United States v. Calvin Sims, et al., CR No. 22-00232-

28
FJG
8/25/22

1 MWF, which charges defendant with possession with intent to
2 distribute methamphetamine, in violation of 21 U.S.C. §§ 841(a)(1),
3 (b)(1)(A)(viii).

4 b. Not contest facts agreed to in this agreement.

5 c. Abide by all agreements regarding sentencing contained
6 in this agreement.

7 d. Appear for all court appearances, surrender as ordered
8 for service of sentence, obey all conditions of any bond, and obey
9 any other ongoing court order in this matter.

10 e. Not commit any crime; however, offenses that would be
11 excluded for sentencing purposes under United States Sentencing
12 Guidelines ("U.S.S.G." or "Sentencing Guidelines") § 4A1.2(c) are not
13 within the scope of this agreement.

14 f. Be truthful at all times with the United States
15 Probation and Pretrial Services Office and the Court.

16 g. Pay the applicable special assessment at or before the
17 time of sentencing unless defendant has demonstrated a lack of
18 ability to pay such assessments.

19 THE USAO'S OBLIGATIONS

20 3. The USAO agrees to:

21 a. Not contest facts agreed to in this agreement.

22 b. Abide by all agreements regarding sentencing contained
23 in this agreement.

24 c. At the time of sentencing, provided that defendant
25 demonstrates an acceptance of responsibility for the offense up to
26 and including the time of sentencing, recommend a two-level reduction
27 in the applicable Sentencing Guidelines offense level, pursuant to
28

1 15. Defendant and the USAO agree that:

2 a. Defendant did not use violence or credible threats of
3 violence or possess a firearm or other dangerous weapon (or induce
4 another participant to do so) in connection with the offense charged
5 in the indictment;

6 b. The offense charged in the indictment did not result
7 in death or serious bodily injury to any person; and

8 c. Defendant was not an organizer, leader, manager, or
9 supervisor of others in the offense charged in the indictment and was
10 not engaged in a continuing criminal enterprise.

11 16. Because the safety valve criteria in U.S.S.G. § 5C1.2(a)(1)
12 has not been updated to match the language of 18 U.S.C. § 3553(f)(1),
13 if the Court determines that defendant's case satisfies the criteria
14 in 18 U.S.C. § 3553(f), but does not satisfy the criteria for a two-
15 level reduction under U.S.S.G. § 2D1.1(b)(18) (referencing the
16 criteria set forth in U.S.S.G. § 5C1.2(a)(1)), the government will
17 recommend a two-level downward variance to defendant's Sentencing
18 Guidelines range based on the factors set forth in 18 U.S.C.
19 § 3553(a). By making any such recommendation, the government does not
20 waive any objection to the Court's determination that the criteria in
21 18 U.S.C. § 3553(f) have been satisfied. If the government makes a
22 two-level variance recommendation as described herein, defendant
23 agrees not to seek a further reduced sentence pursuant to 18 U.S.C.
24 § 3582(c)(2) in the event the United States Sentencing Commission
25 amends U.S.S.G. § 5C1.2(a)(1) to match the language of 18 U.S.C.
26 § 3553(f)(1).

27 17. Defendant understands that there is no agreement as to
28 defendant's criminal history or criminal history category.

1 U.S.S.G. § 3E1.1, and recommend and, if necessary, move for an
2 additional one-level reduction if available under that section.

3 NATURE OF THE OFFENSE

4 4. Defendant understands that for defendant to be guilty of
5 the crime charged in the indictment, that is, possession with intent
6 to distribute methamphetamine, in violation of 21 U.S.C.

7 §§ 841(a)(1), (b)(1)(A)(viii), the following must be true:

8 (1) defendant knowingly possessed methamphetamine; and (2) defendant
9 possessed it with the intent to distribute it to another person.

10 5. Defendant understands that for defendant to be subject to
11 the statutory maximum and statutory minimum sentence set forth below,
12 the government must prove beyond a reasonable doubt that defendant
13 possessed and intended to distribute at least 50 grams of actual
14 methamphetamine, as alleged in the count in the indictment.

15 Defendant admits that defendant, in fact, possessed at least 50 grams
16 of actual methamphetamine, as alleged in the indictment.

17 PENALTIES

18 6. Defendant understands that the statutory maximum sentence
19 that the Court can impose for a violation of 21 U.S.C. §§ 841(a)(1),
20 (b)(1)(A)(viii) is: life imprisonment; a lifetime period of
21 supervised release; a fine of \$10,000,000 or twice the gross gain or
22 gross loss resulting from the offense, whichever is greatest; and a
23 mandatory special assessment of \$100.

24 7. Defendant understands that, absent a determination by the
25 Court that defendant's case satisfies the criteria set forth in 18
26 U.S.C. § 3553(f), the statutory mandatory minimum sentence that the
27 Court must impose for a violation of 21 U.S.C. §§ 841(a)(1),
28 (b)(1)(A)(viii) is: 10 years' imprisonment; five years of supervised

1 release; and a mandatory special assessment of \$100.

2 8. Defendant understands that supervised release is a period
3 of time following imprisonment during which defendant will be subject
4 to various restrictions and requirements. Defendant understands that
5 if defendant violates one or more of the conditions of any supervised
6 release imposed, defendant may be returned to prison for all or part
7 of the term of supervised release authorized by statute for the
8 offense that resulted in the term of supervised release.

9 9. Defendant understands that under 21 U.S.C. § 862a,
10 defendant will not be eligible for assistance under state programs
11 funded under the Social Security Act or Federal Food Stamp Act or for
12 federal food stamp program benefits, and that any such benefits or
13 assistance received by defendant's family members will be reduced to
14 reflect defendant's ineligibility.

15 10. Defendant understands that, by pleading guilty, defendant
16 may be giving up valuable government benefits and valuable civic
17 rights, such as the right to vote, the right to possess a firearm,
18 the right to hold office, and the right to serve on a jury.
19 Defendant understands that he is pleading guilty to a felony and that
20 it is a federal crime for a convicted felon to possess a firearm or
21 ammunition. Defendant understands that the conviction in this case
22 may also subject defendant to various other collateral consequences,
23 including but not limited to revocation of probation, parole, or
24 supervised release in another case and suspension or revocation of a
25 professional license. Defendant understands that unanticipated
26 collateral consequences will not serve as grounds to withdraw
27 defendant's guilty plea.

11. Defendant and his counsel have discussed the fact that, and defendant understands that, if defendant is not a United States citizen, the conviction in this case makes it practically inevitable and a virtual certainty that defendant will be removed or deported from the United States. Defendant may also be denied United States citizenship and admission to the United States in the future. Defendant understands that while there may be arguments that defendant can raise in immigration proceedings to avoid or delay removal, removal is presumptively mandatory and a virtual certainty in this case. Defendant further understands that removal and immigration consequences are the subject of a separate proceeding and that no one, including his attorney or the Court, can predict to an absolute certainty the effect of his conviction on his immigration status. Defendant nevertheless affirms that he wants to plead guilty regardless of any immigration consequences that his plea may entail, even if the consequence is automatic removal from the United States.

FACTUAL BASIS

12. Defendant admits that defendant is, in fact, guilty of the offense to which defendant is agreeing to plead guilty. Defendant and the USAO agree to the statement of facts provided below and agree that this statement of facts is sufficient to support a plea of guilty to the charge described in this agreement and to establish the Sentencing Guidelines factors set forth in paragraph 14 below but is not meant to be a complete recitation of all facts relevant to the underlying criminal conduct or all facts known to either party that relate to that conduct.

On or about April 21, 2021, in Los Angeles County, within the Central District of California, defendant knowingly possessed

1 approximately 3,867 grams of actual methamphetamine with the intent
2 to distribute it to another person. At the time of his possession,
3 defendant knew both that the substance was methamphetamine and that
4 it was a federally controlled substance.

5 Specifically, on or before April 21, 2021, defendant obtained
6 two packages of methamphetamine to ship across state lines to a
7 recipient in Ohio. Defendant and the co-defendant named in the
8 indictment ("co-defendant") obtained packaging supplies, and then
9 packaged the methamphetamine for shipment by placing tape on
10 bubblewrap containing the methamphetamine and placing the
11 methamphetamine inside of two USPS boxes.

12 That same day, co-defendant took the two USPS boxes containing
13 the methamphetamine to the Post Office in San Pedro for shipment.
14 Defendant provided his co-defendant both with the Ohio destination
15 address, as well as with money to pay for the cost of shipping, but
16 did not accompany her into the Post Office. Thereafter, co-defendant
17 provided defendant with USPS tracking information for both boxes,
18 which defendant used to monitor the progress of the methamphetamine.

19 Defendant grew concerned that the packages were not moving
20 according to the USPS tracking information. Co-defendant therefore
21 returned to the USPS Post Office in San Pedro on April 22, 2021, and
22 asked to intercept the packages; however, the packages were not
23 ultimately returned to defendant or co-defendant or shipped to Ohio,
24 because they had been identified and seized by USPS personnel as
25 possibly containing drugs.

26 A subsequent lab report confirmed that one of the boxes
27 contained approximately 1,748 grams of actual methamphetamine and the
28 other box contained approximately 2,119.1 grams of actual

1 methamphetamine, for a total of at least approximately 3,867 grams of
2 actual methamphetamine that defendant knowingly and intentionally
3 distributed.

4 SENTENCING FACTORS

5 13. Defendant understands that in determining defendant's
6 sentence the Court is required to calculate the applicable Sentencing
7 Guidelines range and to consider that range, possible departures
8 under the Sentencing Guidelines, and the other sentencing factors set
9 forth in 18 U.S.C. § 3553(a). Defendant understands that the
10 Sentencing Guidelines are advisory only, that defendant cannot have
11 any expectation of receiving a sentence within the calculated
12 Sentencing Guidelines range, and that after considering the
13 Sentencing Guidelines and the other § 3553(a) factors, the Court will
14 be free to exercise its discretion to impose any sentence it finds
15 appropriate between the mandatory minimum and up to the maximum set
16 by statute for the crime of conviction.

17 14. Defendant and the USAO agree to the following applicable
18 Sentencing Guidelines factors:

19 Base Offense Level (at least 36 U.S.S.G. § 2D1.1(a)(5),
20 1.5KG but less than 4.5 KG (c)(2)
of actual methamphetamine):

21
22 Defendant and the USAO reserve the right to argue that additional
23 specific offense characteristics, adjustments, and departures under
24 the Sentencing Guidelines are appropriate. Defendant understands
25 that defendant's offense level could be increased if defendant is a
26 career offender under U.S.S.G. §§ 4B1.1 and 4B1.2. If defendant's
27 offense level is so altered, defendant and the USAO will not be bound
28 by the agreement to Sentencing Guideline factors set forth above.

1 18. Defendant and the USAO reserve the right to argue for a
2 sentence outside the sentencing range established by the Sentencing
3 Guidelines based on the factors set forth in 18 U.S.C. § 3553(a)(1),
4 (a)(2), (a)(3), (a)(6), and (a)(7).

5 WAIVER OF CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS

6 19. Defendant understands that by pleading guilty, defendant
7 gives up the following rights:

8 a. The right to persist in a plea of not guilty.

9 b. The right to a speedy and public trial by jury.

10 c. The right to be represented by counsel -- and if
11 necessary have the Court appoint counsel -- at trial. Defendant
12 understands, however, that, defendant retains the right to be
13 represented by counsel -- and if necessary have the Court appoint
14 counsel -- at every other stage of the proceeding.

15 d. The right to be presumed innocent and to have the
16 burden of proof placed on the government to prove defendant guilty
17 beyond a reasonable doubt.

18 e. The right to confront and cross-examine witnesses
19 against defendant.

20 f. The right to testify and to present evidence in
21 opposition to the charges, including the right to compel the
22 attendance of witnesses to testify.

23 g. The right not to be compelled to testify, and, if
24 defendant chose not to testify or present evidence, to have that
25 choice not be used against defendant.

26 h. Any and all rights to pursue any affirmative defenses,
27 Fourth Amendment or Fifth Amendment claims, and other pretrial
28 motions that have been filed or could be filed.

WAIVER OF APPEAL OF CONVICTION

20. Defendant understands that, with the exception of an appeal based on a claim that defendant's guilty plea was involuntary, by pleading guilty defendant is waiving and giving up any right to appeal defendant's conviction on the offense to which defendant is pleading guilty. Defendant understands that this waiver includes, but is not limited to, arguments that the statute to which defendant is pleading guilty is unconstitutional, and any and all claims that the statement of facts provided herein is insufficient to support defendant's plea of guilty.

LIMITED MUTUAL WAIVER OF APPEAL OF SENTENCE AND COLLATERAL ATTACK

21. Defendant agrees that, provided the Court imposes a total term of imprisonment within or below the range corresponding to an offense level of 33 and the criminal history category calculated by the Court, subject to any applicable mandatory minimum sentence, defendant gives up the right to appeal all of the following: (a) the procedures and calculations used to determine and impose any portion of the sentence; (b) the term of imprisonment imposed by the Court; (c) the fine imposed by the Court, provided it is within the statutory maximum; (d) to the extent permitted by law, the constitutionality or legality of defendant's sentence, provided it is within the statutory maximum; (e) the term of probation or supervised release imposed by the Court, provided it is within the statutory maximum; and (f) any of the following conditions of probation or supervised release imposed by the Court: the conditions set forth in Second Amended General Order 20-04 of this Court; the drug testing conditions mandated by 18 U.S.C. §§ 3563(a)(5) and 3583(d); and the alcohol and drug use conditions authorized by 18 U.S.C. § 3563(b)(7).

22. Defendant also gives up any right to bring a post-conviction collateral attack on the conviction or sentence, except a post-conviction collateral attack based on a claim of ineffective assistance of counsel, a claim of newly discovered evidence, or an explicitly retroactive change in the applicable Sentencing Guidelines, sentencing statutes, or statutes of conviction. Defendant understands that this waiver includes, but is not limited to, arguments that the statute to which defendant is pleading guilty is unconstitutional, and any and all claims that the statement of facts provided herein is insufficient to support defendant's plea of guilty.

23. The USAO agrees that, provided (a) all portions of the sentence are at or below the statutory maximum specified above and (b) the Court imposes a term of imprisonment within or above the range corresponding to an offense level of 33 and the criminal history calculated by the Court, the USAO gives up its right to appeal any portion of the sentence.

RESULT OF WITHDRAWAL OF GUILTY PLEA

24. Defendant agrees that if, after entering a guilty plea pursuant to this agreement, defendant seeks to withdraw and succeeds in withdrawing defendant's guilty plea on any basis other than a claim and finding that entry into this plea agreement was involuntary, then the USAO will be relieved of all of its obligations under this agreement.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF AGREEMENT

25. This agreement is effective upon signature and execution of all required certifications by defendant, defendant's counsel, and an Assistant United States Attorney.

BREACH OF AGREEMENT

26. Defendant agrees that if defendant, at any time after the signature of this agreement and execution of all required certifications by defendant, defendant's counsel, and an Assistant United States Attorney, knowingly violates or fails to perform any of defendant's obligations under this agreement ("a breach"), the USAO may declare this agreement breached. All of defendant's obligations are material, a single breach of this agreement is sufficient for the USAO to declare a breach, and defendant shall not be deemed to have cured a breach without the express agreement of the USAO in writing. If the USAO declares this agreement breached, and the Court finds such a breach to have occurred, then: (a) if defendant has previously entered a guilty plea pursuant to this agreement, defendant will not be able to withdraw the guilty pleas, and (b) the USAO will be relieved of all its obligations under this agreement.

COURT AND UNITED STATES PROBATION AND PRETRIAL SERVICES

OFFICE NOT PARTIES

27. Defendant understands that the Court and the United States Probation and Pretrial Services Office are not parties to this agreement and need not accept any of the USAO's sentencing recommendations or the parties' agreements to facts or sentencing factors.

28. Defendant understands that both defendant and the USAO are free to: (a) supplement the facts by supplying relevant information to the United States Probation and Pretrial Services Office and the Court, (b) correct any and all factual misstatements relating to the Court's Sentencing Guidelines calculations and determination of sentence, and (c) argue on appeal and collateral review that the

1 Court's Sentencing Guidelines calculations and the sentence it
2 chooses to impose are not error, although each party agrees to
3 maintain its view that the calculations in paragraph 14 are
4 consistent with the facts of this case. While this paragraph permits
5 both the USAO and defendant to submit full and complete factual
6 information to the United States Probation and Pretrial Services
7 Office and the Court, even if that factual information may be viewed
8 as inconsistent with the facts agreed to in this agreement, this
9 paragraph does not affect defendant's and the USAO's obligations not
10 to contest the facts agreed to in this agreement.

11 29. Defendant understands that even if the Court ignores any
12 sentencing recommendation, finds facts or reaches conclusions
13 different from those agreed to, and/or imposes any sentence up to the
14 maximum established by statute, defendant cannot, for that reason,
15 withdraw defendant's guilty plea, and defendant will remain bound to
16 fulfill all defendant's obligations under this agreement. Defendant
17 understands that no one -- not the prosecutor, defendant's attorney,
18 or the Court -- can make a binding prediction or promise regarding
19 the sentence defendant will receive, except that it will be within
20 the statutory maximum.

21 NO ADDITIONAL AGREEMENTS

22 30. Defendant understands that, except as set forth herein,
23 there are no promises, understandings, or agreements between the USAO
24 and defendant or defendant's attorney, and that no additional
25 promise, understanding, or agreement may be entered into unless in a
26 writing signed by all parties or on the record in court.

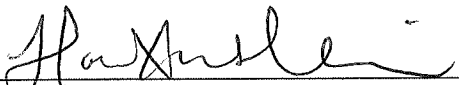
PLEA AGREEMENT PART OF THE GUILTY PLEA HEARING

31. The parties agree that this agreement will be considered part of the record of defendant's guilty plea hearing as if the entire agreement had been read into the record of the proceeding.

AGREED AND ACCEPTED

UNITED STATES ATTORNEY'S OFFICE
FOR THE CENTRAL DISTRICT OF
CALIFORNIA

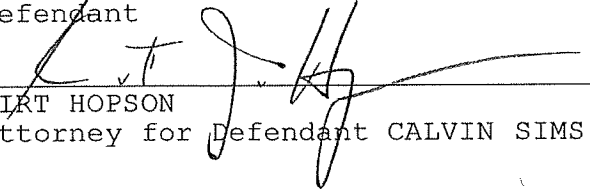
STEPHANIE S. CHRISTENSEN
Acting United States Attorney


HAOXIAOHAN CAI
Assistant United States Attorney

9/13/2022
Date


CALVIN SIMS
Defendant


9-9-2022
Date


KIRT HOPSON
Attorney for Defendant CALVIN SIMS

9/9/2022
Date

CERTIFICATION OF DEFENDANT

I have read this agreement in its entirety. I have had enough time to review and consider this agreement, and I have carefully and thoroughly discussed every part of it with my attorney. I understand the terms of this agreement, and I voluntarily agree to those terms. I have discussed the evidence with my attorney, and my attorney has advised me of my rights, of possible pretrial motions that might be filed, of possible defenses that might be asserted either prior to or at trial, of the sentencing factors set forth in 18 U.S.C. § 3553(a), of relevant Sentencing Guidelines provisions, and of the consequences of entering into this agreement. No promises, inducements, or representations of any kind have been made to me other than those contained in this agreement. No one has threatened or forced me in any way to enter into this agreement. I am satisfied with the representation of my attorney in this matter, and I am pleading guilty because I am guilty of the charge and wish to take advantage of the promises set forth in this agreement, and not for any other reason.

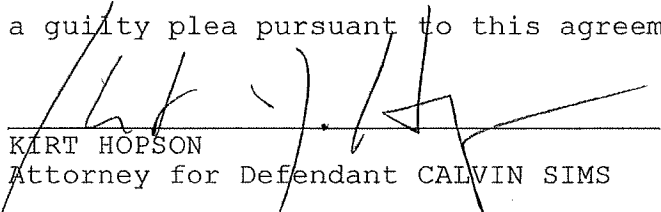


CALVIN SIMS
Defendant

Date

CERTIFICATION OF DEFENDANT'S ATTORNEY

I am CALVIN SIMS's attorney. I have carefully and thoroughly discussed every part of this agreement with my client. Further, I have fully advised my client of his rights, of possible pretrial motions that might be filed, of possible defenses that might be asserted either prior to or at trial, of the sentencing factors set forth in 18 U.S.C. § 3553(a), of relevant Sentencing Guidelines provisions, and of the consequences of entering into this agreement. To my knowledge: no promises, inducements, or representations of any kind have been made to my client other than those contained in this agreement; no one has threatened or forced my client in any way to enter into this agreement; my client's decision to enter into this agreement is an informed and voluntary one; and the factual basis set forth in this agreement is sufficient to support my client's entry of a guilty plea pursuant to this agreement.


KIRT HOPSON
Attorney for Defendant CALVIN SIMS

9-9-2022
Date